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## News From Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick

October 22, 2008

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### Tax Cap Hearing With Tom Suozzi in Yonkers Today



[The New York State Commission on Property Tax Relief](#) is holding a public hearing from 2-5 pm today, Wednesday, Oct. 22 at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, 1 Larkin Plaza with Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi and other officials.

The Commission was created by Executive Order in January 2008 to examine the local property tax burden in New York State and to recommend measures to provide property tax relief.

Its Preliminary Report identified issues that require further study prior to the publication of its Final Report: Special Education, School District Mandate Relief and the impact of property taxes on the Big Four Large City Dependent School Districts. The Commission is inviting testimony on these topics, as well as on BOCES and School District Consolidation issues.



After testimony from scheduled speakers, the Commission will receive public comment. Those who wish to provide oral testimony can sign up at the hearing and will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. However, all persons with interest in this topic have the opportunity to submit prepared testimony or other materials. Written testimony will be accepted and may be sent to the Commission via e-mail to [comments@cptr.state.ny.us](mailto:comments@cptr.state.ny.us) fax (518- 486-6799) or mail (80 South Swan Street, 29th floor, Albany, NY 12210).

A live webcast of the hearing will be made available at 1:50 pm from the Commission's [website](#)

The panel is holding hearings in the coming weeks in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse.

*Photo by Nathaniel Brooks for The New York Times showing Gov. David A. Paterson discussing the proposal to place a ceiling on increases to local property taxes via recommendation of a commission led by the Nassau County Executive, Thomas Suozzi.*

#### Quality of Life Day is Saturday



You can learn more about my office's Domestic Violence Awareness Month initiatives and our Quality of Life Day by tuning into News12 for today's newscasts and to WVOX radio, Channel 1460 AM this Friday at 7:50 am to hear the Bob Marone show.

The interviews main focus is on this Saturday's third bi- annual Quality of Life Day which my office is sponsoring from 11 am to 5 pm at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, 1 Larkin Center.

Dozens of non-profit and government agencies will be on hand to assist you in the areas of housing, family care, health, social services, child abuse prevention, environmental issues, employment, education, legal services, domestic violence, child care, assistance for seniors, and more.

Special highlights include a 12:30 pm interactive play that depicts the warning signs of teen dating violence by the Looking Glass Players youth theater group called "Love Shouldn't Hurt."

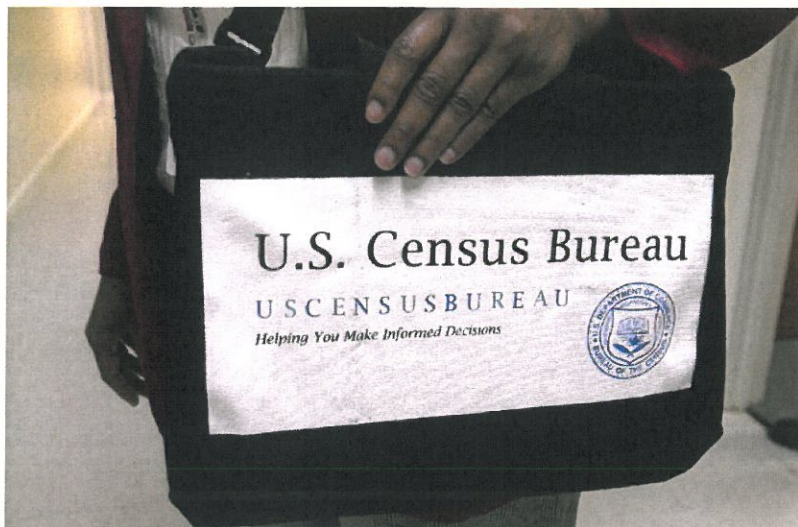
At 2 pm, the Guardian Angels will conduct a workshop facilitated by the Yonkers YWCA on Gang Violence covering gang prevention, anger management and gang activities and their patterns. A Youth Speak Out session will follow from 3-4 pm.



A Youth After Party will then be hosted by the YWCA from 7-11 pm at their facility on 87 South Broadway for kids ages 14-18. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission \$5.

For more information, please contact Carol Bengis by clicking [here](#). You may also call my office at (914) 377-6060.

#### Census Jobs For Yonkers



The US Census Bureau needs local residents for a variety of jobs, including interviewing, office administration and supervision for short term, temporary assignments of 5 to 10 weeks with a pay range of between \$18-\$20 per hour.

It is important to maximize the number of Yonkers residents hired to help our local economy as a portion of those paychecks will be spent at local businesses.

It is also important to have Yonkers well-represented because the more residents we have working on the census, the more likely we are to get a better head count (including undocumented residents). And the more accurate the headcount, the better for Yonkers since certain municipal revenue sharing is based upon population.

Please help by sharing this information with your friends and neighbors and by giving your information when the census taker comes to your door.

To apply for one of the jobs between October 21 and November 15, call (646) 233-2406 x 2443 or (646) 233- 2405 x 2443 M-F, 5-9 pm and Sat-Sun, 11 am-7 pm.

#### Ride for Domestic Violence Awareness



Our office co-sponsored a motorcycle ride through Yonkers on Saturday, Oct. 18 with the Yonkers Motorcycle Club, 914 Mc-Westchester Sports Alliance and Forever Strong in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

More than 100 people, including the Guardian Angels, attended the event. We were met with cheers and thumbs up as we rode through the



and answering questions.

streets greeting people

It was a beautiful day and we are already looking forward to next year's ride to help raise awareness about this very important social issue.

To read the full story in the Journal News, click [here](#).

#### Lowey on Lockwood



Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey took it to the streets last Friday as we talked to Lockwood Avenue business owners about how the economy is affecting their sales.

We heard almost the same thing at the jewelry store, the pizza place and the mechanic's garage. Business is off. Not so at the beauty shops (people still want to look good) or at the liquor store where business is up due in part to people saving money by dining at home. Not surprisingly, Lottery ticket

sales remain constant.

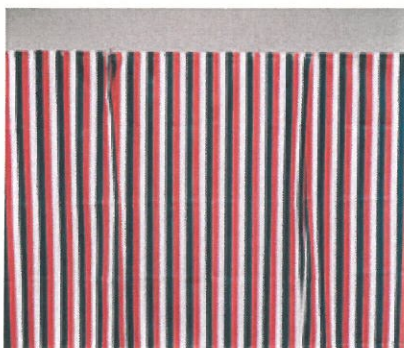
Still, the general mood on Lockwood Avenue was one of concern and caution. Lack of available credit, which is often necessary for everyday functions such as making payroll, economic uncertainty and declining sales have made survival difficult for many businesses.

The good news is that Congresswoman Lowey has our ear and is fighting in Congress for the relief we need in this tough economy. She's supporting proposals to stabilize the markets, reform the policies that threaten our economic security, give local businesses and families tax relief, and bring down the high costs of living that are making it harder to get by.

It's something we talk about on a regular basis and was her main reason for coming to Yonkers.

Please feel free to call my office for further assistance or discussion at 914-377-6060.

#### Absentee Ballot Deadlines Approaches



New Yorkers who wish to vote by absentee ballot must first submit an application postmarked by Tuesday, October 28. Your completed absentee ballot must be postmarked by November 3.

Alternatively you can appear in person at the county Board of Elections in person to request an absentee ballot up to the day before Election Day.

You may confirm that you are registered to vote, obtain voter



registration cards, absentee ballot applications, and find other information by visiting [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us)

### Yonkers Profile: School Crossing Guard Marilyn Lynch



Most people's contacts are stored in their computers, some even listing spouses and children's names or birthdays for handy reference. It builds relationships when someone asks, "Say, how's little Sally doing? Isn't she turning four this month?" as if they aren't being prompted by a database.

Meet Marilyn Lynch, a walking, talking, feeling, breathing Blackberry. Not only does this Yonkers school crossing guard memorize and store the names of hundreds of kids in her head, she also knows the names of many of their parents, siblings, babysitters, and sometimes even their dogs. Multiply that by 1,050 students (a number she knows), and there you have her database.

"In the beginning of the school year, I don't overwhelm myself with too many names but day by day I try to take in more new ones," she explains, citing six years on the job at PEARLS. "I have names from a lot of different countries. I can't spell half of them. But eventually, I learn them."

She then calls out to a few of her charges as she walks onto Hawthorne Avenue holding up her bright red stop sign.

"Have a good day Sarika," she smiles. "Hi Josias. How is Madaha today? Good to see you, Henry. Were you out sick yesterday?"



People often ask her how she does it? What is the secret to remembering all those names when most people are introduced and forget the person's name 10 seconds later?

"I try to do a word or name association of something with their character like a great smile or bright shoelaces to help me remember," she explains. "Then I match the name to the association and keep repeating it until it hopefully sticks."

Put to the test on a Friday afternoon, she only missed a handful of 38 kids' names.

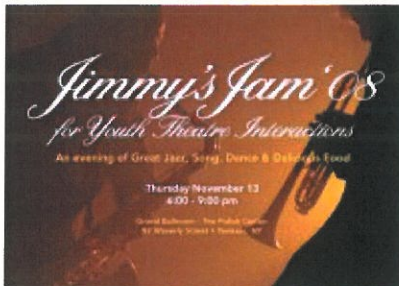
The 53-year-old Yonkers native says she loves her job and can't imagine doing anything else.

"These kids are pure treasures," she says. "I love them more than anything in the world."

The feeling seems mutual, especially on Candy Friday when the kids get treats from her goodie bags.

"They deserve it after a long week," she says. "Plus it teaches them the days of the week when they say, 'Is today Candy Day, Marilyn?' and I say, 'No, it's only Wednesday. Candy Day is Friday.'"

#### Jimmy's Jam '08 for Youth Theatre



Come to an evening of great jazz, song, dance and delicious food to support Yonkers' Youth Theatre Interactions, an after school performing arts program, from 6-9 pm on Thursday, Nov. 13 at The Polish Center, 92 Waverly St., Yonkers.

The cost is \$55 per ticket in advance (\$75 at the door.) Silent Auction. Cash Bar.

Invited musicians include: Bob Arthurs, Glenda Davenport, Jon Doty, Mike Friedman, Bobby LaVell, Kenny Lee,

DeForest Raphael, Allen Rosenthal, Dave Shaich, Annette St. John and many more. DJ: Edward Francis.

For more information, call (914) 963-3040 or email by clicking [here](#).

#### Children's Village Annual Ball



Please join my family and me for a Halloween-themed evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing at the Children's Village annual Masquerade Ball at 7 pm on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Historic Roosevelt Ballroom of Philipsburg Performing Arts Center, 8 Hudson Street, Yonkers.

This event raises money for runaway and homeless youth in Westchester County.



Tickets are \$100 and sponsorships are available. For more information please call 914-693-0600 ext. 1224.

### Environmental News



Did you know that invasive vines are strangling trees and shrubbery along the Saw Mill River?

The two most common culprits are Oriental Bittersweet and Porcelainberry which crowd out native plants and slowly strangle trees in their upward spiral, eventually shrouding tree canopies from the sun and creating a blanket over under-story plants and shrubs.

This seriously affects wildlife habitats in terms of food sources and nesting areas, and has a negative impact upon the number of species that use the river corridor.

You can help fight off the killer vines by joining Ground Work Hudson Valley at their next Free a Tree Day/South County Trail Cleanup effort from 9:30am to 12:30pm on Saturday, Oct. 25 held at Farragut Avenue in Hastings (Exit 13 north off of the Saw Mill River Parkway.) Call 914-375-2151 or e-mail [annmarie@groundwork.org](mailto:annmarie@groundwork.org) for more

information. Wear warm, comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes.

Also noteworthy is a Tappan Zee Bridge/I- 287 Environmental Review Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28 from 4:30 to 7pm where the agencies involved with development project will make a presentation at White Plains High School, 550 North St, White Plains.

The public is urged to attend this important information session.

Written by Laura Fahrenthold

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